

WOMEN'S
Christian Temperance Union
Of New Zealand.

Organised 1885.

"For God and Home and Humanity."

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The White Ribbon.

For God and Home and Humanity.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1913.

Says the old proverb, "As the twig is bent, the tree is inclined." A distinguished Cardinal is reported to have said that all he asked for was the training of every child till it was seven years of age. America attributes her steadily increasing Prohibition vote to the fact that for over a quarter of a century scientific temperance instruction has been given in her schools. So important is this work that we want to stir our White Ribboners up to labour more zealously than ever among the young.

Our N.Z. Superintendent for Medical Temperance has much up-to-date literature on this subject; also she has a fine set of charts, with explanatory manual, which she supplies at 7s 6d.

On our front page we give a small copy of one of the charts, to let our readers see what they are like.

There are eight charts. The one on our front page shows the order in which brain centres develop, and the lesson teaches how alcohol first of all deadens the higher brain centres, and the power of self-control is lost. We can recommend these charts and manual to anyone who is teaching the young.

In New Zealand we have Temperance wall sheets hanging on the walls, but let us see that lessons are given upon these sheets, and the facts they set forth taught to the children. Last Convention a resolution was passed asking that teachers in training college should be taught the effects of alcohol. This resolution was forwarded to the Minister for Education, and the following reply received from him:—

Wellington, 16th Sept., 1913.

Madam,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of a resolution passed by your Branch of the W.C.T.U., urging that young teachers in Training Colleges should have special instruction on the effects of alcohol. On inquiry from my departmental officers, I find that the harmful effects of alcohol are already included in the programme set out for the subject of Elementary Hygiene as required for a teacher's certificate, and that a course in the same subject is made obligatory in the Training Colleges. Every Training College course of the kind, to be complete, must of necessity include the topic referred to.

The circumstances do not appear to me to demand any more precise directions to those in charge.—I have the honour to be, Madam, your obedient servant,

J. ALLEN,

Minister of Education.

The President, W.C.T.U.,
Christchurch.

We have reason to believe that this instruction is not given in all our Training Colleges, and we would urge our workers to press for this instruction to be made compulsory in every college.

On the Temperance question for the last 100 years it has truly been a case of "Where the vanguard rests to-day the rear shall camp to-morrow."

It was comparatively easy to convince the public that the abuse of alcohol was harmful, but a long and stubborn contest was necessary before it became a recognised fact that the moderate use of alcohol could injure anyone. This is now generally conceded. Many large railway companies and banks and other business firms are refusing to employ any but total abstainers. They find that in every instance alcohol lessens efficiency. Many, even temperance workers, still cling to the belief that alcohol is useful as a medicine. All the leading medicos now agree with Sir Victor Horsley that alcohol is "unnecessary in health, and positively harmful in disease." We believe that the battle of the future will be fought along the lines of medical temperance. Voters hesitate to vote for National Prohibition on the ground that it will be so hard to get it as a medicine. Now, we want every vote we can get for National Prohibition. Let us educate the people till they recognise this fact, that alcohol as a medicine is worse than worthless—is positively harmful. This century has brought the gravest indictment against alcohol, that it is a racial poison. In France, where the grave is running a race with the cradle, with every prospect of winning, the President asked a distinguished company of scientists the cause of this race decay. The reply was that the greatest cause of race decay and race suicide was alcohol. Let us make these facts widely known; they are not the cry of a few fanatics and hysterical women, but the calm, mature judgment of noted scientists and doctors. White Ribboners, we must put forth every effort to teach these facts to old and young alike. We must educate along these lines.

TRUTH AND FALSEHOOD.

(By Clinton Scollard.)

If some great falsehood with its
mighty brand
Stalk like Goliath, ravaging the land,
Fit thou the pebble truth within thy
sling,
And then, like David—fling!

—"Munsey's Magazine,"